

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/892,875

Applicant(s)

YOKOKURA, HIDENORI

Examiner

Thu Ha T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/30/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6,14-17,19 and 27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____


ZARNI MAUNG

PROBATIONARY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Leonard Diana (Reg. No. 29,296) on August 26, 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims

Claim 1

In the last line of claim 1, after the phrase "multi-functional device neighbor each other" please replace the period "." with the comma --,-- and insert the following --wherein said first function is a printer function for providing a printer service, said second function is a scanner function for providing a scanner service, and said third function is a copy function for providing a copy service.--

Claim 5

Please cancel claim 5.

Claim 14

In the last line of claim 14, after the phrase "the multi-functional device neighbor each other" please replace the period "." with the comma --,-- and insert

the following --wherein said first function is a printer function for providing a printer service, said second function is a scanner function for providing a scanner service, and said third function is a copy function for providing a copy service.--

Claim 18

Please cancel claim 18.

Claim 27

In line 3, after the phrase, "said program" please insert the following -- embedded in a computer readable medium--.

In the last line of claim 27, after the phrase "the multi-functional device neighbor each other" please replace the period "." with the comma --,-- and insert the following --wherein said first function is a printer function for providing a printer service, said second function is a scanner function for providing a scanner service, and said third function is a copy function for providing a copy service.--

Claim 28

Please cancel claim 28.

Claims 31-42

Please cancel claims 31-42.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-4, 6, 14-17, 19 and 27 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts fail to disclose or suggest a multi-functional device connected to a network, and having a plurality of functions including at least a first function and a second function, said device comprising: reception means for receiving service information provided by another device which includes location information indicating a location of the other device registered in the server apparatus; and determination means for determining whether the other device and said multi-functional device neighbor each other, based on the location of the other device indicated by the location information received by said reception means and a location in which said multi-functional device is placed, wherein said control mean controls said registration means to register in the server apparatus information that relates the service information received by said reception means with service information indicating a service that said multi-functional device can provide, if said determination means determines that the other device and said multi-functional device neighbor each other, wherein said first function is a printer function for providing a printer service, said second function is a scanner function for providing a scanner service, and said third function is a copy function for providing a copy service, and in conjunction with all other limitations in the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu Ha Nguyen, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3989. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Najjar Saleh, can be reached at (571) 272-4006.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ThuHa Nguyen
August 30, 2005


ZARNI MAUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER